

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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PASS ALSO TO DOE AND MURRAY GOLDBERG, SOLAR ENERGY RESERACH
INSTITUTE, GOLDEN, COLORADO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT, US

SUBJECT: ITALY-U.S. ENERGY WORKING GROUP: EXPERT MEETING ON SOLAR
ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

REF: STATE 12924

1. SUBJECT MEETING WAS CONVENED AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN SOLAR
TECHNOLOGIES. THE DISCUSSION WAS AN EXPLORATORY EFFORT TO FIND
PROJECTS THAT MIGHT PROVIDE BENEFITS TO BOTH ITALY AND THE
U.S. WITHOUT DUPLICATING IEA PROJECTS.

2. U.S. PARTICIPANTS WERE LLOYD HERWIG (SCIENTIFIC ADVISER
TO THE DIVISION OF SOLAR TECHNOLGOIES), CLIFFORD SELVAGE
(SCIENTIST, SANDIA LABS ON DETAIL TO THE IEA SOLAR PROJECT IN
BONN) AND EMB ROME SCIATT. ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED
THE FOLLOWING: ING. GIOVANNI SIMONI, DR. CORRADO MILESI
FERRETTI, SIG.NA GIOVANNA DULISSE (MIN FONAA); ING.
DOMENICO BORGESSE, ING. ACHILLE TASCHINI, ING. CORRADO CORVI
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(ENEL);; 8.&. GUIDO FRIGESSI (IRI); ING. MARIO CONTI (SGSATES,
MILAN); ING. BILL MEBANE, PROF. SERGIO PIZZINI, PROF. BIONDI
(MONTEDISON); ING. GIULIO SCARPI (GALILEO, FLORENCE);
PROF. ROBERTO VISENTIN (CNR); ING. CARLO MICHELI (SNAM PROJECT);
ING. DOMENICO PETRUCCIOLI (FIAT RESEARCH CENTER); ING.
DOMENICO RAGUSA, DR. GIUSEPPE BENEVOLO (ENI) AND ING.
GION BEER (ANSALDO).

3. THE MEETING FOCUSSED ON PRESENTATIONS BY THE ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS OF THEIR ONGOING AND PLANNED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS FOR HIGH-TEMPERATURE SOLAR THERMAL TECHNOLOGIES AND FOR PHOTOVOLTAICS. SOME LOW-TEMPERATURE SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES WERE ALSO MENTIONED. U.S. PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED BRIEFLY THE DOE PROGRAMS IN HIGH-TEMPERATURE SOLAR THERMAL AND IN PHOTOVOLTAICS AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION AVAILABLE TO DOE. THROUGHOUT THE U.S. PRESENTATIONS, IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT DOE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HAD TO BE JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF RETURNS TO THE DOMESTIC SOLAR R AND D PROGRAM.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPLORATORY CHARACTER OF THE MEETING, NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED IN PUBLIC. ON THE U.S. SIDE, HOWEVER, BOTH HERWIG AND SELVAGE REPORTED TO THE SCIATT THAT THE U.S. SOLAR PROGRAM WAS SO MUCH BIGGER AND FARTHER ADVANCED THAN THE ITALIAN ONE THAT IT WOULD BE PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANY MAJOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS JUSTIFIABLE ON THE BASIS OF TECHNOLOGICAL RETURN TO THE U.S. LINKS BETWEEN ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL OR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GROUPS AND COMPARABLE DOE CONTRACTORS MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

5. THE ITALIANS WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO FOLLOW UP THIS MEETING WITH MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE EXPERTS CONCERNED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICULAR PROJZBTS JUDGED TO BE CANDIDATES FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. BEFORE INFORMING THE ITALIANS THAT OUR TECHNICAL PEOPLE VIEW THIS DEVELOPMENT AS UNLIKELY, EMBOFFS BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO ITALIAN DESIRES. ITALIAN OFFICIALS STATE REPEATEDLY THAT A MAJOR SOLAR COOPERATIVE PROJECT WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL BENEFITS FOR THE U.S. HERE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THE MERITS OF THIS ARGUMENT, AND EVEN IF IT IS VALID THE USG HAS FEW MECHANISMS TO RESPOND READILY. ONE COULD, HOWEVER, CONSIDER PRESSING FOR A SEPARATE DOE BUDGET LINE WITH ITALY. SUCH A BUDGET LINE WOULD HAVE TO BE JUSTIFIED LARGELY ON A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A TECHNICAL BASIS.

6. IF THE OPTION OF A SEPARATE DOE BUDGET LINE IS DECLINED, AND IN ANY CASE IN THE INTERIM, WE WOULD PROPOSE EFFORTS TO INCREASE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES WITH THE ITALIANS. AS A FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTR AT OAK RIDGE BE ASKED TO SEND ONE COPY OF ALL DOE SOLAR PUBLICATIONS TO THE SCIATT FOR TRANSMISSION TO A CENTRAL REPOSITORY IN ITALY, PROBABLY AT CNR. IN RETURN, WE WOULD ASK THE ITALIANS FOR THEIR SOLAR PUBLICATIONS. A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT IS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE FOR GEOTHERMAL AND NUCLEAR SAFETY PUBLICATIONS.

SECONDLY, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE SCIATT HERE AND SERI (SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE) EXPEDITE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR SHORT VISITS AND LONGER STAYS (INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT) AT U.S. SOLAR INDUSTRIES AND LABORATORIES. THIRDLY, WE WOULD PROPOSE SUGGESTING TO THE ITALIANS THAT THEY PREPARE FOR PRESENTATION IN THE U.S. A DESCRIPTION AND DISPLAY ILLUSTRATING ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITIES IN SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES. GARDNER

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